

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-16 remain in this application. Claims 2-13 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14-16 are allowed.

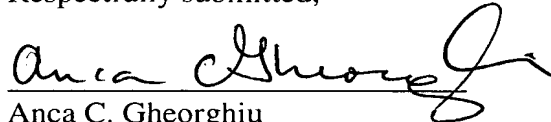
The Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Beall ('266). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2 which was objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 USC 102(a) be withdrawn.

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Anca C. Gheorghiu at (607) 974-3322.

Respectfully submitted,



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